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Environmental Assessment UT-040-03-17

Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area Designation and Recreation Management Plan, Land Use Plan Amendment, Land Exchanges and R&PP Amendment

Location: Various Locations in Iron County, Utah
Applicant/Address: None

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Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area Designation and Recreation Management Plan, Land Use Plan Amendment, Land Exchanges and R&PP Amendment

UT-040-03-17

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1. Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the designation of the Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area (GTPSRMA) and associated Recreation Management Plan, two land exchanges, a Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) lease amendment, and an amendment to the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved in October 1986. The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives are addressed in Appendix 1. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any “significant” impacts could result from the analyzed actions. “Significance” is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a statement of “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI). A FONSI is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementations of the proposed action will not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the RMP. If, following the analysis, the decision maker determines that this project may result in “significant” impacts, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected. It is anticipated that two Decision Records would be signed. The first would pertain to the designation of the GTPSRMA and associated management plan, the R&PP amendment and land use plan amendment. The second, for the two land exchanges, would be signed at a later date, after completion of the land exchange process.

1.2. Background

Three Peaks is a small mountain range located about nine miles northwest of Cedar City, Utah (see map, Appendix 2). Parts of this range have been used extensively for recreational activities for at least thirty years and use is projected to increase in the future. In the past, these activities have been conducted with few restrictions, resulting in damage to natural resources and conflicts between different recreational activities. To resolve these conflicts, the Bureau of Land Management, Cedar City Field Office (BLM) and Iron County (County) have been working together to create an organized, designated and managed recreation area.

Land use in the 6792 acre area is complex. Most of the Three Peaks area is administered by BLM, with private, County and State land inholdings (see Table 1, below). Historic iron mining has resulted in about 586 acres of privately-owned patented mining claims. Iron County has leased from the BLM, through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP), about 155 acres within the proposed GTPSRMA for recreation use. Iron County also has acquired ownership of one of the patented mining claims. Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

(SITLA) currently owns about 950 acres in the proposed area. Two land exchanges are proposed and analyzed in this EA which would allow for consolidation of land ownership within the GTPSRMA. Only public land within the proposed boundaries, including R&PP leases held by the County, would be considered as part of the GTPSRMA at this time. Inholdings would be incorporated in the SRMA if they are acquired by Iron County or the Federal Government under the jurisdiction of the BLM and are found to be safe for recreational purposes.

Table 1. Land Ownership of the Greater Three Peaks Area

Owner	Acres	% of Area
Bureau of Land Management (including R&PP leases held by Iron County)	4,966	76.0%
State (SITLA)	950	15.0%
Private	586	8.8%
Iron County	15	0.2%
Total Acres	6,517	100.0%

1.3. Need for the Proposed Action

The increase in uncontrolled recreational use in the proposed SRMA has resulted in user conflicts and damage to natural resources. The proposed SRMA designation and associated recreation management plan are needed to manage the rapid growth of increasingly diverse recreational uses in the Three Peaks area and to control the damage to natural resources resulting from this increased use. The land exchanges are needed to improve land ownership within the SRMA and to acquire important natural resources. The R&PP amendment is needed to provide an area for recreational uses which would require more intensive management than the BLM can provide.

1.4. Purpose of the Proposed Action

The purposes of the Proposed Action include increasing recreational opportunities while also reducing user conflicts, decreasing impacts to natural resources and increasing public safety in the Three Peaks area. The purposes of the land exchanges including reducing potential conflicts with private land owners, increasing recreational options in the Three Peaks area, and obtaining important wildlife and riparian habitat. The purpose of the R&PP amendment is to provide for a motocross track and associated facilities.

1.5. Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s)

The proposed action and alternatives are subject to the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan (CBGA RMP) approved October 1, 1986 and the Pinyon Management Framework Plan (MFP), approved June 10, 1983.

The proposed land exchanges are also subject to the RMP and MFP amendment approved September 23, 1997 which established certain criteria for consideration of land tenure adjustments. The RMP, as amended, requires that a land tenure adjustment, such as a land exchange, meet one or more of five criteria. The proposed exchanges would meet three of the

criteria as follows: (1) accommodates the needs of state, local or private entities including needs for the economy, community growth and expansion and is in accordance with other land use goals and objectives and RMP decisions; (2) it would result in a net gain of important and manageable recreational resource values on public lands; and (3) it is essential to allow effective management of public lands where Federal ownership is necessary to meet resource management objectives.

The proposed R&PP amendment is subject to the RMP and would be in conformance with Lands Decision B.3.1, which states: “Process applications for use authorizations such as rights-of-way, leases, and permits on a case by case basis”.

The designation of the SRMA and the associated management plan are subject to the RMP. Three aspects of the proposed action would not be in conformance with the RMP. Part of the proposed action is to amend the CBGA RMP to facilitate the following changes.

- The area is currently designated for informal dispersed recreation use; the creation of the GTPSRMA would designate the area as a Special Recreation Management Area.
- Most of the area is currently open to Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) use; the proposed action would limit motorized use to designated roads and trails. Equestrian and mountain bike use would also be limited to designated trails or use areas.
- The area is currently open to fuelwood and post harvesting; the proposed action would close the SRMA to all woodland harvesting.

The use of firearms is not mentioned in the RMP. Portions of the SRMA would be closed by BLM regulations which require that shooting not be allowed within a developed recreation area. BLM would also ask Iron County to close the entire SRMA to firearm use. Firearms use would only be allowed under authorized conditions, such as law enforcement actions or requested predator control.

1.5.1. Planning Criteria

The following planning criteria were formulated to help guide the analysis of the proposed land use plan amendments.

- The SRMA would be governed by regulations found at 43 CFR 8365.
- Management of the SRMA would be in conformance with existing program plans or policies of state, county or local governments and would be considered consistent or complimentary to those goals and objectives.
- Reasonable foreseeable development scenarios would be used to assess cumulative impacts and are based on past, present and foreseeable activities or trends now occurring in the Three Peaks area.
- Management actions would not be approved within the SRMA which could result in significant adverse impacts to any Critical Element (see section 3.3.1), unless mitigated to the satisfaction of the authorized officer or other authorizing agency.

1.6. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans

The Proposed Action and alternative are consistent with other plans, programs, and policies of affiliated Tribes, other Federal agencies, state, and local governments to the extent practical within Federal law, regulation, and policy, including the following:

- Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- 43 CFR 1220
- BLM Utah Riparian Management Policy
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
- Memorandum of Understanding Between the BLM CCFO and Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Conservation Plan
- Iron County Plan
- Cooperative Management Agreement between BLM CCFO and Iron County

Utah's Standards for Rangeland Health address upland soils, riparian/wetlands, desired and native species and water quality. These resources are either analyzed later in this document or, if not impacted, are listed in the attached Interdisciplinary Team Resource Review Record (Appendix 1**Error! Reference source not found.**).

1.7. Identification of Issues

Several issues were identified by the public and BLM resource personnel. Input from these sources determined the issues which will be addressed in this document. Resources which were considered but would not be affected by the proposed action are listed in Appendix 1**Error! Reference source not found.**. The following issues were identified.

1.7.1. Hazardous Materials

There was a series of explosives and engineering tests in the Three Peaks area, conducted by the military circa 1968-1972 entitled "Operation Mine Shaft" which may have left some residue which could be considered hazardous to humans.

1.7.2. Invasive, Non-native Species

Spread of these species could result from increased recreation use in either alternative, which could decrease biodiversity.

1.7.3. Livestock Grazing

There could be a loss of Animal Unit Months (AUMs) due to recreation pressure, facilities development, and conveyance of lands in land exchange transactions. There could also be a disruption of ranch operations due to changes in land ownership isolating public land in grazing allotments from base property or other important private lands.

1.7.4. Minerals

Designation of a Special Recreation Management Area and the land exchanges could conflict with potential future mineral exploration or extraction activities.

1.7.5. Public Safety

Abandoned mine workings and conflicting recreation activities could result in injury to area users. Poor roads could result in damage to vehicles. Uncontrolled shooting could cause injury to other users. There are also physical safety hazards from “Operation Mine Shaft.” These consist of huge concrete blast covers, partially buried instrument cables, and buried debris that is re-surfacing.

1.7.6. Recreation

There is a need to reduce user conflicts by developing a designated trail system. Limiting motorized and mountain bike use to designated roads and trails would restrict some users. More sanitary and camping facilities are needed. Motocross users desire a track, which could be inconsistent with other activities. Parking and staging areas are needed.

1.7.7. Riparian

The Nichols exchange would transfer four riparian areas into Federal ownership which could improve opportunities for livestock and wildlife.

1.7.8. Socio-Economics

An increase in commercial uses would increase revenue, principally to the County. Some private land owners could see an increase in property values. Some livestock operators could be financially affected. Noise and dust could increase in the area and create a nuisance for adjacent land owners.

1.7.9. Soil

Soil loss could result from facility construction and recreation use.

1.7.10. Wildlife and Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Wildlife

The proposed SRMA contains Utah Prairie Dog mapped habitat although no prairie dogs have been observed since 1996. Wildlife habitat would be degraded or lost in the recreation area but sage grouse and deer winter range would be gained in the land exchanges. Water sources obtained in the Nichols exchange could be used for wildlife.

1.7.11. Vegetation/Utah Standards and Guidelines

Vegetation loss would result from construction and recreation use.

1.7.12. Woodland

Closing the area to green and fuelwood cutting and gathering would affect local harvesters.

1.8. Summary

This chapter has presented the Purpose of and Need for the proposed project, as well as the relevant issues, i.e., those elements that could be affected by the implementation of the proposed project. In order to meet the purpose and need of the proposed project in a way that resolves the issues, the BLM has developed a range of alternatives. These alternatives, including a no action alternative, are presented in Chapter 2. The potential environmental impacts or consequences

resulting from the implementation of each alternative are then analyzed in Chapter 4 for each of the identified issues.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

2.1. Introduction

This section describes the alternatives considered in this EA. Only two alternatives are analyzed in detail - the proposed action and the no action alternative. These alternatives are the only alternatives which would meet the underlying purposes and need for the proposed action. The proposed action contains information incorporated from numerous sources and interest groups, while staying within the guidelines applicable to a Special Recreation Management Area, land exchanges and the R&PP amendment process.

2.2. Alternative A – Proposed Action

There are five parts to the proposed action. These include designation of the GTPSRMA and approval of the associated recreation management plan, a land exchange with SITLA, a land exchange with Frank Nichols, an R&PP lease amendment to Iron County, and an amendment to the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony RMP.

2.2.1. GTPRA Designation and Recreation Management Plan

It is proposed that approximately 4966 acres of public land in the Three Peaks area be designated as the Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area. This recreation area would be governed by an intensive use Recreation Management Plan. The plan would allow for the following, which would be located as shown on the detailed recreation area map (Appendix 2**Error! Reference source not found.**). Legal land descriptions for the proposed recreation area are contained in Appendix 3**Error! Reference source not found.**. A cooperative agreement has been signed by Iron County and the BLM regarding this proposal. This agreement is located in the case file in the Cedar City Field Office.

Private and SITLA inholdings would not be included into the GTPSRMA unless they are acquired by Iron County or the BLM and are found to be safe for recreational purposes. Private land owners adjacent to the recreation area will be consulted regarding the designation and proposed improvements and will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the plan and this EA.

A detailed description of the actions proposed is contained in the attached Recreation Management Plan (Appendix 4**Error! Reference source not found.**). It is incorporated in its entirety into this proposed action. Actions described in the plan include the following.

2.2.1.1. Developments

1. Installation of signs designating roads, trails and use areas open to certain recreation types. Non-designated routes would be closed to all but foot traffic. Primary and secondary roads would be open to OHVs, mountain bikes, equestrian use and foot traffic. Mountain bike trails would be open to mountain bikes and foot traffic. The equestrian use area would be open to horseback and foot traffic. Appendix 2. Map of Proposed SRMAAppendix 2 shows the location of these routes. Additional routes may be designated in the future, as needed.
2. Installation of signs describing appropriate recreation etiquette. Signs would be installed in

high use and problem areas informing visitors about safety regulations within the GTPSRMA.

3. Designation of an OHV trail system. This trail system would utilize existing roads and trails. Trails markers would indicate the difficulty of the trail segments. OHV activities which would cause greater disturbance than that expected from typical casual OHV use would be limited to the Iron County R&PP lease.
4. Development of an OHV trailhead with sanitation facilities, a parking area, and camping/picnicking facilities.
5. Development of an interpretive program including maps and information kiosks. The kiosks would be placed in major use areas such as parking lots and trailheads. Welcome signs would be placed at major entrances to the recreation area, along major transportation routes to the area, and at major crossroads within the GTPSRMA.
6. Development of facilities including solid waste disposal containers and standard SST vault toilet restrooms.
7. Designation of a major access route which would run through the recreation area. This existing route may be graded and graveled, or paved. These actions are currently authorized by a Title V Right-of-Way held by Iron County.
8. Development of a trailhead and parking area for equestrian use. The trailhead would consist of picnic tables, restroom, hitching posts, corrals, and loading ramps. About 10 acres of disturbance would be required. The parking area would consist of a loop road which could accommodate between 20 and 30 vehicles with trailers. Additional parking would be available along the thru road, which could accommodate another 15-20 outfits.
9. Development of a mountain bike trailhead which would include parking, restrooms and an interpretive kiosk including a map, safety information, user etiquette messages and rules and regulations. All development would be located within an existing parking area.
10. Development of a radio-controlled model airplane facility. This would require clearing vegetation and leveling an area approximately 1.15 acres in size for use as a runway. A parking area would also be developed, which would disturb about 1 acre. Sanitation facilities would also be developed.
11. Development of a large group camping area for casual users as well as larger, organized groups. This area would include picnic tables and fire pits at each site, restroom facilities, an access road useable by lower clearance vehicles, hiking trails, a water tank and water delivery system, a natural amphitheatre, and a pavilion area for group gatherings. The water would be piped to the tank from a well off of the SRMA on private land. The pipelines for this water system and any future extensions would run along existing roads and trails. Water would be hauled to the water tank, if necessary.
12. Possible development of potable water sources in high use areas other than the large group area. Additional NEPA analysis would be completed as necessary for the expanded water system.
13. Designation of two dispersed camping areas which might be developed in the future with tent pads, picnic tables and possible restrooms.
14. Maintenance of existing roads and trails. Improvement of roads, which could include paving, to the group camping area and the remote controlled airplane use area.

Additional developments and changes in the scope or location of developments could occur within the GTPSRMA over time. Minor changes which would cause unsubstantial impacts

could be completed if determined by a Determination of NEPA Adequacy document (DNA), to be adequately analyzed by this EA. Changes which could cause impacts beyond those described in this EA would be analyzed in future documents as directed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

2.2.1.2. Protective Measures:

1. Develop regularly scheduled patrols by Iron County and BLM law enforcement officials.
2. Establish water and/or power lines along or under existing roads and trails when possible to minimize disturbance to new areas.
3. Reestablish vegetation, using native or non-native species, in disturbed areas proposed for reclamation.
4. Limit road improvement to existing corridors, as shown in **Error! Reference source not found..**
5. Limit improvements to existing disturbed areas when possible.
6. Avoid or mitigate any new disturbance to eligible cultural properties or sensitive species or their habitat, as approved by the State Historic Preservation Office.
7. Prohibit use of firearms within the GTPSRMA unless specifically authorized. Iron County would be asked to close the area by ordinance.
8. Restrict mechanized vehicles to designated roads and trails; restrict equestrian use to designated trails and use areas.
9. Coordinate with livestock operators concerning activities which might conflict with their operations. Sheep would be herded at all times in the Jensen Allotment to avoid the developed recreation sites (R&PP, large group camping and parking area, air strip and parking area, equestrian trail head, mountain bike riding trail head, OHV trail head and developed camp sites).
10. Include land acquired in the GTPSRMA into the Cedar City Field Office and Iron County weed control program. These areas would be monitored and weed species controlled annually. Iron and Beaver counties are currently working on a coordinated weed management plan which would include the areas described in this EA.
11. Inform OHV users of the need to wash vehicles thoroughly before entering the Three Peaks area to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
12. Permanently close the SRMA to public harvest of fuelwood, cedar posts, and Christmas trees. Only fuelwood brought into the area would be authorized for use in developed campsites. Campfires would not be allowed in dispersed camping areas.
13. There are approximately 50 acres of land in the proposed SRMA that have been mapped as habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). Prairie dogs were translocated to the area several times between 1974 and 1991, but no Utah prairie dogs have been observed since 1996. To mitigate the probable loss of this habitat due to increased recreation use in the area, other lands found in Iron County would be treated to improve their quality as Utah prairie dog habitat. The land proposed for treatment is the Long Hollow Utah prairie dog habitat improvement project as described and analyzed in EA UT-044-97-04 and again in DNA-UT-040-04-44. These documents are incorporated by reference into this EA. The EA may be found in the Cedar City Field Office NEPA files and is available upon request. The DNA is attached in Appendix 5.**Error! Reference source not found.** This mitigation is scheduled for the fall of 2005. There is also a fuels reduction treatment planned for the Long Hollow area. This

project is called the Long Hollow Fuels Reduction Project, and is analyzed in CX-UT-040-05-07 available in the Cedar City Field Office.

2.2.2. SILTA Land Exchange

The BLM proposes to exchange the surface and mineral estate of two non-contiguous parcels of public land, totaling 611.92 acres, for the surface and mineral estate of two non-contiguous parcels of state land, totaling 950.69 acres, administered by SITLA. Both the Federal and State lands are located in Iron County approximately 8 miles northwest of Cedar City, Utah. This proposed exchange with SITLA would transfer title of all SITLA lands within the proposed recreation area to the Federal Government under the administration of the BLM. The land descriptions are as follows:

2.2.2.1. Public Lands

T. 35 S., R. 12 W., SLBM

Sec. 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 19, NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 23, lots 1 and 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 24, lots 1 and 2;

containing 611.92 acres more or less.

2.2.2.2. State Trust Lands:

T. 35 S., R. 12 W., SLBM

Sec. 2, Lots 1 and 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$;

Sec. 16, Lot 1 (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 4 (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 2 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$),

Lot 1 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 5 (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 6 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 7 (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 5

(NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$), Lot 4 (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$), S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

containing 950.69 acres more or less.

The two parcels of Federal land are identified on the map in Appendix 6**Error! Reference source not found.** Parcel 1 contains 451.92 acres and is located on the southeast edge of the Three Peaks Recreation Area. Parcel 2 contains 160 acres and is located about 3 miles west of Parcel 1.

The two parcels of non-Federal land are also identified on the map in Appendix 6**Error! Reference source not found.** Parcel 1 (part of sec. 16, T. 35 S., R. 12 W.) contains 455.35 acres. Parcel 2 (part of sec. 2, T. 35 S., R. 12 W.) contains 495.34 acres. Both parcels lie within the proposed Greater Three Peaks SRMA.

On the Federal land the following exceptions and reservations would be made: Excepting and Reserving to the United States:

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States. Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).
2. Those rights for a communication site, granted to the Federal Aviation Administration, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-067391, pursuant to 44 L.D. 513, as to the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, T.35S., R.12W.

The Federal land would be conveyed subject to the following recorded rights-of-ways.

1. Those rights for a road, granted to Iron County, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-67497, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761), as to the NE³ of Section 19, T.35S., R.12W.
2. Those rights for an 8-inch diameter underground natural gas pipeline, granted to Questar Gas Management Company, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-65455, pursuant to Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185), as to the NE¹/₄ of Section 19, T.35S., R.12W.
3. Those rights for a buried 1½ -inch livestock water pipeline, granted to Clark Livestock, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-38905, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761), as to the NE¹/₄ of Section 19, T.35S., R.12W.
4. Those rights for a railroad, granted to the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Company, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number SL-032533, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1875, (18 Stat. 482), as to the NE¹/₄ of Section 19, T.35S., R.12W.
5. Those rights for a buried telephone cable, granted to U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-63277, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761), as to the NE¹/₄ of Section 19, T.35S., R.12W.

There are no interests or encumbrances to be conveyed or reserved on the non-Federal land.

2.2.3. Nichols Land Exchange

The BLM proposes to exchange the surface and mineral estate of four non-contiguous parcels of Federal land, totaling 1460.48 acres, for the surface estate of five non-contiguous parcels of private land, totaling 1815.279 acres. The Federal lands are located immediately to the south of the Three Peaks Recreation Area. Approximately 214 acres of the private lands are located within the Three Peaks Recreation Area, and the remaining private lands are located in other portions of Iron County. The mineral rights of three of the private parcels (Patented Claims, Cedar Canyon and Highway 20 parcels) would be included in the exchange. The government already owns the mineral estate for the Butcher Spring property. The mineral estate for the Parowan Gap parcel is owned by the State of Utah and would not be exchanged. The State of Utah, however, considers sand and gravel to be part of the surface estate, so these materials would be acquired by the BLM. Both the Federal and private lands are located in Iron County (see map, Appendix 6**Error! Reference source not found.****Error! Reference source not found.**). Some water rights would come to the BLM with the Butcher Springs, Parowan Gap and Cedar Canyon properties. Frank Nichols of Cedar City, Utah owns or controls the private land. Mr. Nichols has agreed to fill in seven shallow mining shafts and one small adit located on this property as part of his responsibility in the exchange. The land descriptions are as follows:

2.2.3.1. Private Lands (containing 1,815.279 acres more or less):

Cedar Canyon (360 acres)

T. 36 S., R. 10 W.

Sec. 17, N¹/₂SW¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄; (120 acres)

Sec. 18, S¹/₂NE¹/₄; (80 acres)

Sec. 20, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄. (40 acres)

T. 36 S., R. 11 W.
Sec. 13, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, (120 acres)

Three Peaks Patented Claims (214.209 acres): Patented Lode Mining Claims situated in the Iron Springs Mining District, Iron County:

Mineral Survey No. 5753: Monster, Black Crow, Walker and Cow Lode Mining Claims, T.34 and 35 South, Range 12 West. Patent Acreage 80.626

Mineral Survey No. 5752: Jennie Joe, Texas No. 1, Texas No. 2, April Fool and Saint Lodes. T. 35 S., R 12 W. Patent Acreage 97.921

Ashton Lode: U. S. Mineral Survey No. 6087. T. 35 S., R. 12 W. Patent Acreage 18.086

Zelma Lode: U.S. Mineral Survey No. 6089. T. 35 S., R. 12 W. Patent Acreage 17.576

Parowan Gap (614.4 acres)

T. 33 S., R.10 W. sec. 16, lots 1 to 4 inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Butcher Spring (320 acres)

T. 32 S., R., 19 W, sec. 7, E $\frac{1}{2}$.

Highway 20 (306.67 acres)

T.31 S., R.7 W., sec. 32, all property south of Highway 20.

2.2.3.2. Public Land (Containing 1,460.48 acres more or less):

T. 35 S., R. 12 W., SLBM

Sec. 20, lot 1; (42.34 acres)

Sec. 21, lots 2 to 5 inclusive, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; (166.92 acres)

Sec. 22, lots 1 to 14 inclusive, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$; (309.06 acres)

Sec. 27, lot 1; (37.39 acres)

Sec. 28, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$; (120.00 acres)

Sec. 33, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, (100.00 acres.)

T. 36 S., R. 12 W.

Sec. 4, lots 2, 6, and 7, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, (244.77 acres);

Sec. 8, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$; (280.00 acres)

Sec 9, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; (80.00 acres)

Sec. 17, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (80.00 acres).

The total acreage in T. 36 S., R. 12 W may decrease as any parcels containing historic properties would be dropped from the exchange.

The following exceptions and reservations would apply to Federal land. Excepting and Reserving to the United States: 1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States. Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

The Federal land would be conveyed subject to the following recorded rights-of-ways. Subject To:

1. Those rights for a road, granted to Iron County, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-67497, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
2. Those rights for a road, granted to Iron County, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-78903, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
3. Those rights for an 8-inch diameter underground natural gas pipeline, granted to Questar Gas Management Company, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-65455, pursuant to Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185);
4. Those rights for a buried telephone cable, granted to U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-63277, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
5. Those rights for a buried telephone cable, granted to U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-77904, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
6. Those rights for a power line, granted to PacifiCorp, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-053045, pursuant to the Act of March 4, 1911, (36 Stat. 1253) as amended;
7. Those rights for a power line, granted to PacifiCorp, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-67505, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
8. Those rights for an underground power line, granted to PacifiCorp, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-77909, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
9. Those rights for a power line, granted to PacifiCorp, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-63282, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
10. Those rights for a culinary water storage system, granted to Mountain View Special Service District, its successors and assigns, by right-of-way number UTU-55638, pursuant to the Act of October 21, 1976, Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761).
11. Domestic livestock grazing use by York Jones, his successors and assigns, as holder of grazing permit number 4304572, for the Eight Mile Hills grazing allotment (# 05024). The privilege of the said grazing user to graze livestock pursuant to the terms and conditions of his permit and this clause shall expire April 15, 2007 as to lots 2, 6 and 7, SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, E¹/₂SW¹/₄, section 4; S¹/₂NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, SE¹/₄, section 8; W¹/₂NW¹/₄, section 9; and that part of said allotment within the NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, section 17, T. 36S., R12 W., Salt Lake Meridian. Annual fees shall be paid to the patentee based on 48 AUMs for grazing use of subject permit, in an amount to coincide with authorized Federal grazing fees as published annually in the Federal Register.
12. Domestic livestock grazing use by Jones Land and Livestock Co., its successors and assigns, as holder of grazing permit number 4304565, for the Swett Hills grazing allotment (# 15068). The privilege of the said grazing user to graze livestock pursuant to the terms and conditions of his permit and this clause shall expire April 15, 2007 as to the part of said allotment within the E¹/₂NW¹/₄, section 17, T. 36S., R12 W., Salt Lake Meridian. Annual fees shall be paid to

the patentee based on 4 AUMs for grazing use of subject permit, in an amount to coincide with authorized Federal grazing fees as published annually in the Federal Register.

2.2.4. Livestock Grazing

To accommodate the changes in public acreage which would result from the land exchanges the following changes in AUMs are proposed (see Appendix 7):

Sherratt Allotment: a decrease of 77 AUMs;
Big Hollow Wash Allotment: a decrease of 4 AUMs;
Mine Allotment: a decrease of 20 AUMs;
Parowan Gap Allotment: an increase of 42 AUMs;
Stateline Allotment: an increase of 6 AUMs;
Eight Mile Hills Allotment: a decrease of 48 AUMs; and
Swett Hills Allotment: a decrease of 4 AUMs.

Since all of the public lands within the Mine Allotment would be transferred into private ownership, this allotment would cease to exist and the permit would be cancelled.

2.2.5. Iron County R&PP Lease

The proposed action would add 30 acres to the existing 155 acre R&PP lease held by Iron County. This area would contain a motocross track, a parking lot and a picnic area. These actions are described in more detail in the attached recreation management plan (Appendix 4). The R&PP amendment would be located in T. 35 S., R. 12 W, Section 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$; N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

2.2.6. Land Use Plan Amendment

Actions on public lands are subject to land use plans. When a change is needed to a land use plan, an amendment may be initiated. This process includes informing the public through publication in the Federal Register and analysis of any changes which would occur to other decisions in the land use plan. The proposed changes to the CBGA from this amendment were published in the Federal Register on May 25, 2004. Three changes to the CBGA RMP are proposed: designating the area as a Special Recreation Management Area; limiting motorized use to designated roads and trails and limiting equestrian and mountain bike use to designated trails or use areas; and closing the GTPSRMA to wood collecting or cutting. Although not addressed in the plan, the area would also be closed to firearm use, including hunting. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Iron County Sheriff's Department would be notified of this development.

2.3. Alternative B – No Action

The existing management of the area, as described in Section 3, below, would continue. The No Action Alternative would not designate the Three Peaks area as a Special Recreation Management Area. Recreation in the Three Peaks area would continue in an informal unrestricted manner, subject to existing general regulations for recreation on public land. Commercial and large group activities would be allowed under individual Special Recreation Permits. A motocross facility would not be authorized on public land. The land exchanges and R&PP lease would not be authorized and the land use plan would not be amended. Unauthorized

use of private lands for recreation would likely continue, as would utilization of the existing R&PP lease area.

2.4. Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Further Analysis:

An alternative was considered which would allow for development of the area without the designation of an SRMA and associated recreation management plan. This alternative was not considered further due to the increasing user conflicts and the escalation of natural resource damage which would likely occur without the protections offered by the SRMA designation and associated recreation management plan.

An alternative was considered which would greatly reduce recreation in the area by strictly limiting the acres available for recreation use. This alternative was not considered further because it would not meet the recreation needs in the area and this level of protection is not warranted by the natural resources in the area.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area as identified in the Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record (Appendix 1 **Error! Reference source not found.**) and presented in Chapter 1 of this EA. This chapter provides the baseline for comparison of impacts/consequences described in Chapter 4.

3.2. General Setting

The Three Peaks area is a small igneous mountain range with covered areas of Pinyon and juniper trees and other high desert species. The climate is characterized by cold winters and hot summers. Precipitation is 8 to 12 inches with an average of about 9 inches. Approximately 45% to 50% of the moisture comes during the period of plant growth between April and September. Elevation averages 5700 feet above sea level. The parcels adjacent to the SRMA, proposed for exchange, are similar but without the topographic variation of the Three Peaks Range. Upland vegetation is mainly sagebrush/grasslands with some areas of Pinyon and juniper in the Jenson, Iron Springs, Eight Mile Hills, Swett Hills, Mine, Big Hollow Wash, Stateline, and Sherratt allotments. Vegetation in the Parowan Gap and Bone Hollow allotments is mostly sagebrush and winterfat with fairly extensive disturbed areas which have been invaded by annual weeds.

The Butcher Springs parcel (see Appendix 6) supports a vegetative cover of Pinyon and juniper trees, has mountainous terrain and contains a spring known as Butcher Spring. BLM does not have water rights to this spring but would receive an interest in the water rights for this spring through the exchange. The water filing number is 19-20(A29378), as designated by the Utah State Water Engineer at the Utah Division of Water Rights. The water is important to wildlife, wild horses and livestock using the area. The elevation above sea level ranges from 6960 feet to 7520 feet. Soils are rocky clay to clay loams and are shallow to moderately deep. The aspect is generally east. The primary use of the land is wildlife and livestock grazing. Access is by an unimproved dirt road from the Hamlin Valley road.

The Cedar Canyon property consist of four parcels located near the mouth of Cedar Canyon (see Appendix 6**Error! Reference source not found.**). Three of the four parcels contain live water and riparian habitat from Coal Creek. Coal Creek drains east to west. There are approximately 2 miles of Coal Creek stream and 25 acres of riparian habitat. The remaining parcel has rugged, colorful geological formations at locations that would connect well with existing scenic hiking trails constructed by Cedar City. There are five water rights associated with these parcels that would come to BLM through the exchange. These water rights are #73-1592, #73-1636, #73-1994, #73-1661, and #73-1660. The elevation ranges from 6200 feet to 6866 feet. State Highway 14 runs through three of the four parcels providing access to the property. The primary use of these lands is recreation and wildlife habitat.

The Parowan Gap property is one full section, 614.4 acres, located about 15 miles northeast of Cedar City (see Appendix 6). The land is relatively flat with elevations ranging from 5620 feet to 5740 feet. There are two ephemeral drainages, Long Hollow and Jackrabbit Wash, which run parallel through the section from the northeast to the southwest. The vegetation is primarily sagebrush with some desert shrubs and grasses mixed in. There are three water filings #73-821(U13497), #73-2107(U13497), and #73-2993(A24404) attached to an underground water well on this parcel. The BLM would acquire the water rights to this water source as part of the proposed exchange. An unimproved dirt road runs north and south through the property providing access. Access to the dirt road is from Highway 130 (Minersville Highway) and the Parowan Gap road. This parcel has a sage grouse lek and is contiguous with BLM land that has a seasonal (March 15 to May 1) vehicle closure to protect this lek. The primary use of this land is livestock grazing.

The Patented Claims parcel, within the proposed SRMA boundary, consists of four separate mining claims totaling 214.209 acres. This land is important to the BLM because it is strategically located within the proposed Three Peaks SRMA and contains trails, rock outcrops and other valuable recreational resources. The purpose of the acquisition of these lands is to provide continuity of land ownership and travel on the trails from one side of the Three Peaks mountain range to the other. Most of the area is steep and rocky with a sparse vegetative cover of Pinyon and juniper trees. The primary use of this land is recreation.

The Highway 20 parcel is located east of I-15 within one-half mile of the intersection of I-15 and SR-20 (see Appendix 6**Error! Reference source not found.**). State Road 20 forms the north boundary of the property. The parcel is relatively flat with a vegetative cover of sagebrush. This parcel contains 306.67 acres. The primary uses of this land are livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. Elk and deer winter in this area. The elevation ranges from 5940 feet on the west side of the property to 6175 feet on the east side.

3.3. Resources/Issues Brought Forward for Analysis

Only those resources which could be potentially impacted by the proposed action or alternative are discussed in this section. Appendix 1**Error! Reference source not found.** presents the rationale for dismissal of other resources and issues from further analysis.

3.3.1. Critical Elements of the Human Environment

Critical elements of the human environment are those resources which are specifically addressed in legislation or policy. They are listed in Appendix 1 **Error! Reference source not found.** and are described further in Appendix 8 **Error! Reference source not found.** Critical elements which are not present in the area include Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns, Farm Lands (prime or unique), Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness. The following critical elements are present but would not be affected for the reasons listed in Appendix 8: Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Environmental Justice, Floodplains, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species, Native American Religious Concerns, and Water Quality (drinking/ground).

3.3.2. Hazardous Materials

The Three Peaks area, along with the SITLA and Nichols exchange areas, were surveyed for hazardous materials in 2004. Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency records were checked and no hazardous materials sites were listed for the lands contained in either exchange. An Environmental Site Assessment was prepared for the SITLA and Nichols exchanges, which documents the hazardous materials potential on these lands. This document is available in lands case files UTU-79344 and UTU-79738 which are available in the Cedar City Field Office.

DEQ and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) have been investigating all past military activities in Utah which might have potential hazards or hazardous material issues. The proposed motocross facility would be located in a crater which was created by a series of high explosives tests by the Department of Defense in the 1960's (named "Operation Mine Shaft"; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Site Number J08UT0888). Reports related to this project can be found on file in the BLM Cedar City Field Office. There is a remote possibility that there could be high explosives residues (TNT, etc.) from the series of explosive tests which were conducted there. These residues, if present, could be harmful to the public. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) is often associated with formerly used defense sites, but no UXO have been found at this site. The R&PP to Iron County would not be authorized and no recreation uses would be developed unless certification from DEQ and BOR is received declaring the area safe for the proposed purposes. Should it be determined that there is potential contamination at the site, the area(s) would be posted with the appropriate cautionary information. These actions are considered to be beyond the scope of this proposal and would be completed regardless of the outcome of this environmental analysis. Consequently, this subject will not be analyzed further in this EA.

3.3.3. Invasive, Non-native Species

The only invasive, non-native species which has been found in the Three Peaks area is Scotch Thistle. This species has been treated in the past and is being controlled. Three of the parcels offered in the Nichols exchange contain areas of invasive weed species. The Parowan Gap and Highway 20 parcels have areas dominated by Halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*). These two species are found on most public land and are not included in the BLM and County weed treatment program. The Cedar Canyon parcel contains about 5 plants of Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*).

3.3.4. Livestock Grazing

In total, ten allotments would be involved in the proposed Three Peaks SRMA, Nichols and SITLA land exchanges: the Jenson and Iron Springs allotments in the Three Peaks Recreation Area; the Sherratt, Iron Springs, and Mine allotments in the SITLA and Nichols land exchanges; the Big Hollow and Jenson allotments in the SITLA exchange; and the Bone Hollow, Parowan Gap, Stateline, Swett Hills and Eight Mile Hills in the Nichols exchange. Pertinent information about all allotments affected by the proposed action is included in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Allotments Affected by the Proposed Action

Allotment	Permittee	No. and Kind of livestock	Season of Use	% Public Land	Permitted AUM's (Active)*
Sherratt	Sherratt Farms	20 cattle	09/01-02/28	79	95
Big Hollow Wash	Clark Brothers	29 cattle	03/01-02/28	82	285
	Clark Livestock	21 cattle	03/01-02/28	82	207
		500 sheep	11/01-11/07	82	19
		500 sheep	02/15-02/20	82	16
Iron Springs	Brown Farms	179 cattle	03/01-02/28	29	625
Jenson	Dean and Kathryn J. Lamoreaux	1350 sheep	02/01-02/28	75	203
Mine	Nelson Bulloch	140 Cattle	03/01-03/31	5	7
		112 Cattle	10/16-10/31	5	3
	Melvin and Glenna Bulloch Trust	140 Cattle	03/01-03/31	5	7
		562 Cattle	10/16-10/31	5	3
Parowan Gap	Allen and Elf Dalley	1007 Sheep	03/01-04/30	90	364
		1007 Sheep	06/01-06/15	90	89
		1007 Sheep	10/16-02/28	90	810
Stateline	Leon and Bradley Bowler**	200 Cattle	07/01-08/10	74	197
Eight Mile Hills	Spencer & Craig Jones**	94 Sheep	10/01-05/31	100	151
Swett Hills	Spencer & Craig Jones	15 Cattle	10/16-05/15	100	105
Bone Hollow	Thomas and Lucille Robinson	62 Cattle	11/15-03/15	100	247
		62 Cattle	04/15-05/14	100	61
		40 Cattle	05/15-06/15	100	42
	L. Dean and Marsha Robinson	35 Cattle	11/15-03/15	100	139
		35 Cattle	04/15-05/14	100	35
		12 Cattle	05/15-06/15	100	14

*These are active AUMs only. There may or may not be suspended nonuse AUMs in addition to these.

**Base property lease.

There are no known range improvement projects on public lands which would be affected by the proposed action. The Iron Springs Road, which is a county road, is used as a livestock trail. There is also a county designated livestock trail through public land parcels identified for disposal in the Mine Allotment. All county roads are designated as livestock trails by the county and their status would not be affected by the exchanges. Preservation of these livestock trails is the responsibility of Iron County.

The Iron Springs and Jenson allotments, which are within the proposed SRMA are not in areas identified by APHIS for predator control due to health and human safety considerations. However, consideration will be given to requests for predator control in these allotments.

3.3.5. Minerals

Some sand, gravel and sandstone boulders would be acquired by the exchange. However, since these parcels would be primarily used for recreation and wildlife purposes, it is not anticipated

that the mineral resources would be utilized in the near future. The greatest potential for sand and gravel use would be from the Highway 20 parcel. This parcel has been identified as a potential site for gravel removal for Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for highway maintenance. Since this parcel contains potential prairie dog habitat, it is not anticipated that aggregate removal would be authorized on the parcel. The area around the parcel, however, also contains sand and gravel deposits which could be used by UDOT in the future. Consequently, the land exchanges are expected to have a negligible effect on mineral resources available in the field office area. Portions of the proposed SRMA lie within the historic Iron Springs Iron mining district. Iron ores were recovered from the District beginning in the 1870s and continued intermittently until the 1970s. These activities have left three open mine pits- the Blackbird (3.85 acres), Irene (4.67 acres), and McGarry (1.71 acres) - and a handful of small mine workings, such as shafts and adits, which could prove dangerous to the unwary recreationist (see Appendix 2). There are two known iron deposits remaining in the proposed SRMA, the April Fool deposit and the State Section 16 deposit, which have never been developed. The size, quality, and depth of these deposits make it unlikely that these would be commercially developed in the foreseeable future. Issues related to abandoned mine workings are addressed in the public safety section of this EA. There are currently no mineral leases, claims or sales on any of the properties. Mineral potential reports associated with the land exchanges did not identify any mineral resources which would be substantially affected by these actions. These reports may be found in lands case files UTU-79344 and UTU-79738 available in the BLM Cedar City Field Office. This resource will not be analyzed further in this document.

3.3.6. Public Safety

The only public safety issues identified are related to the proposed GTPSRMA. Public safety issues include the potential for accidents, injuries and fatalities related to abandoned mine workings, vehicle, equestrian and foot traffic use by competing recreation users, conflicts with livestock, poor roads and unrestricted shooting.

Abandoned mine workings include three pits with abrupt highwalls, or dropoffs. Known workings on the Nichols exchange parcels would be filled or barricaded after completion of the exchange. The County has created a trench and berm on the edge of the highwalls on their property to decrease the potential of injury to the public. Additional unknown workings could still exist, and a mine pit still exists on private land not involved in an exchange. None of the mine pits would be included in the SRMA until the potential for injury has been mitigated; however, existing trails extend out of the SRMA adjacent to these pits. There are also physical safety hazards from “Operation Mine Shaft.” These consist of huge concrete blast covers, partially buried instrument cables, and buried debris that is re-surfacing.

ATV users, cyclists and those riding horses currently utilize the same trails with a high potential for accidents. Livestock have been encountered on the trails, which could result in damage to both the trail user and the animal. Only two roads in the area are graded; most of the remaining roads are only usable by high clearance vehicles. There are several unofficial areas which are being used for firearm target practice. Year-round hunting of unprotected species, such as rabbits and coyotes is allowed throughout the recreation area. Protected animals, such as deer, are seasonally hunted with a permit.

3.3.7. Recreation

All of the exchange parcels in or adjacent to the proposed SRMA have high recreation values. Recreation in the Three Peaks area includes camping, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, rock-crawling events, mountain biking, equestrian use, hunting, shooting and picnicking. Local Boy Scout troops and church groups often use the area for outings and camping activities. The only developments which currently exist are within the R&PP lease area, which include campsites, picnic areas, trash containers and restrooms. Current unsupervised use has resulted in greenwood tree cutting, littering, illegal garbage dumping, erosion of roads and trails, user group conflicts and random discharging of firearms. The area is currently open to OHV use except for a 490 acre parcel in which OHV use is limited to existing roads and trails to protect Utah prairie dog habitat.

The Cedar Canyon parcels could be used for recreation purposes. Cedar Canyon is a popular local recreation area used for camping, hiking, wading, paint ball games and other recreational activities.

3.3.8. Riparian

The Nichols Land Exchange includes an offer to the Federal Government of four land parcels containing riparian habitat. Three of the parcels, totaling 240 acres, are located in Cedar Canyon and include approximately 1.5 miles of riparian habitat along Coal Creek. The fourth parcel, totaling 320 acres, includes approximately 1.8 acres of wetlands at Butcher Spring. The Coal Creek segments and Butcher Spring are rated as proper functioning condition (Table 3). Vegetation along Coal Creek include willows, cottonwoods, salt cedar, aspen, Utah juniper, Pinyon pine, Russian olive, sedges, rushes, mahogany, horsetail, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, sagebrush, and a variety of grasses and forbs. Coal Creek is functioning as well as can be expected considering the natural geology of the area and upstream watershed conditions (Cedar Breaks), the existing roadway, and periodic road maintenance activities. Some bulldozing has occurred in the Coal Creek streambed and adjacent tributary streams to remove large amounts of rock and silt that are deposited in the channels during flood events. Riparian habitat along Coal Creek is used by mule deer and wild turkeys in winter as forage and cover, by nongame migratory birds as migration and nesting habitat, and by small mammals, lizards, and amphibians as year long habitat.

Vegetation at Butcher Spring consists of Nebraska sedge, rushes, Kentucky bluegrass, Woods rose, nettle, yarrow, mullien and serviceberry. Butcher Spring has been developed, but only a portion of the water is collected and piped offsite. The water is piped for livestock purposes to the Stateline and Butcher allotments. A relative of Frank Nichols owns the water right which would be acquired by the BLM. Most water remains at the spring source and flows downhill to an intermittent stream channel. Butcher Spring is used as a water source for elk, mule deer, wild horses, and a variety of nongame wildlife.

The corner of one parcel in the Iron Springs area (T. 36 S., R. 12 W.) being offered to Frank Nichols includes less than 0.1 mile of Iron Springs Creek, which is currently a nonfunctional dry stream channel. There is a small remnant of decadent willow (*Salix* spp.) remaining from over 20 years ago when Iron Springs Creek was a flowing stream, but most of the vegetation now

consists of upland species such as rabbitbrush and big sagebrush. This riparian area has very little value for wildlife in its present condition.

Table 3. Riparian-Wetland Conditions

Name of Riparian-Wetland Area	Miles/Acres	Functioning Condition Rating
Coal Creek I	0.3 miles	Proper Functioning
Coal Creek II	0.7 miles	Proper Functioning
Coal Creek III	0.5 miles	Proper Functioning
Butcher Spring	1.8 acres	Proper Functioning

3.3.9. Socio-Economics

The proposed SRMA would be mostly surrounded by private land under the jurisdiction of Iron County. Almost all residential development is to the east. The main east access road from Cedar City crosses the southern boundary of the Cedar Valley Acres subdivision which is zoned for residential lots of 1 acre (R-1). The closest homes in this subdivision could be within 1000 feet of the SRMA boundary in sections 1 and 12. There are also private residences adjacent to the east of the proposed SRMA in section 14. Additional development could occur in sections 14 and 23 (see maps, Appendix 2 and Appendix 6). The northern boundary of the proposed SRMA is zoned A-20 (Agricultural with minimum 20 acre lots), but is relatively undeveloped. The area to the south and west is zoned industrial by Iron County, except for a small area zoned R-1 in section 27, over a mile south of the proposed SRMA.

There are several recreation events each year within the R&PP, many of which are rock crawling events. Although there is not a fee for the event organizers to hold these activities, the event holders usually donate money to the County which is used to improve resources in the recreation area. These events have resulted in noise and dust, but no complaints have been received from the adjacent landowners.

The only developments on the private land inholdings within the proposed SRMA are abandoned mine workings. No residential development has occurred. All are patented mining claims, most of which are owned by multiple, unrelated parties. A letter was sent to the six land owners of record not involved in the Nichols exchange in April 2004, asking for their concerns regarding the proposed action and the potential of their land being used by the public. Three letters were returned as undeliverable; no response was received from the other three parties.

Several of the parcels of federal land offered for exchange are adjacent to existing private land. If the exchanges are completed and these lands developed, the value of the adjacent, undeveloped land would likely increase. Some of this land is owned by the Sherratts and York Jones, whose livestock operations would be affected by the exchanges.

Livestock operations which might be economically impacted by the proposed actions include the Sherratt, Mine, Big Hollow Wash and Eight Mile Hills and Swett Hills allotments which would lose AUMs and the Parowan Gap and Stateline allotments, which would gain AUMs.

3.3.10. Soils

The only potentially affected soils resource would be in the proposed SRMA. There are about 13 mapped soil units in the proposed SRMA. Most of these units, however, would receive dispersed use only. There would be four soil series impacted by the proposed developments; only these units are described and analyzed in this document. The four soils types, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, 2001), are the Bamos, Pass Canyon, Plegomir, and Wales series. These soils are generally well-drained stony to loam soils which have a high percentage of rock fragments and a neutral to alkaline shallow top soil. The A horizon is usually less than four inches thick; they do not contain many organics and do not regenerate rapidly. Due to the coarse nature of the soils, they are not easily transported by wind and erosion levels are not high.

3.3.11. Wildlife Including Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) Wildlife Species

Federally listed threatened, endangered, and candidate animals that occur in Iron County are Utah prairie dog, bald eagle, Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, California condor, and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Lands within and adjacent to the proposed SRMA: All lands involved in the proposed action, including the tracts in the Nichols and SITLA exchanges and Iron County R&PP, were inventoried for threatened, endangered and BLM and state sensitive animals and plants prior to 2004. Site-specific follow-up inventories were conducted on all of those lands for TES animals and plants as well as possible raptor nest locations between February and June 2004.

Bald eagles, a Federally threatened animal species, occur throughout the proposed SRMA between November 1 and March 15. Primary use of the area by eagles is for hunting. No bald eagle night roosts were found on any of the lands at Three Peaks.

Utah prairie dogs, a Federally threatened animal species, were translocated to an area with the proposed SRMA several times between 1974 and 1991 by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) where they occupied approximately 50 acres of grassland habitat near the Iron County R&PP. Utah prairie dogs were last observed at Three Peaks in 1996. No sign of Utah prairie dogs has been found in the proposed SRMA during inventories conducted since 1996, including one on May 6, 2004. Old burrows have filled in or collapsed and mounds have leveled, so little visible trace of former prairie dog activity remains. There are no plans by any state or Federal agency to reintroduce Utah prairie dogs to Three Peaks. As mitigation for the loss of Utah prairie dog habitat at Three Peaks, BLM and Iron County have proposed a habitat improvement project at the Long Hollow complex, on public land (see Appendix 5). This mitigation is described in the proposed action, above. Critical habitat has not been designated for the Utah prairie dog.

Pygmy rabbit is a Utah BLM state sensitive animal species which may soon be listed as a BLM special status species. It is found in a few sagebrush areas in Iron County, but there are no historical records from the Three Peaks area. No pygmy rabbits, burrows, tracks, or pellets were found on any of the surveys. Potential pygmy rabbit habitat on all lands was surveyed between February and May 2004. Potential habitat occurs at a few locations in the proposed SRMA, but

none of the surveyed areas have adequate amounts of understory grasses and forbs to support pygmy rabbits.

No other threatened, endangered, or candidate species were found during inventories and there is no suitable habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican spotted owl, California condor, or yellow-billed cuckoo on any of these lands.

Other wildlife of concern in the area of the proposed SRMA include raptors, migratory nongame birds, and big game. Four golden eagle nests were found during 2004 surveys. Two of the eagle nests were located on SITLA land at Three Peaks and two were found on private lands. All four nest sites would be acquired by the BLM by the exchanges. No other raptor nests were located in the proposed SRMA, although several species of raptors were observed during inventories including ferruginous hawk, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, Cooper's hawk, and northern harrier.

Migratory nongame birds found in the proposed SRMA include turkey vulture, gray flycatcher, ash-throated flycatcher, western kingbird, violet-green swallow, rock wren, mountain bluebird, northern mockingbird, sage thrasher, black-throated gray warbler, chipping sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, lark sparrow, Brewer's blackbird, and brown-headed cowbird. Migratory nongame birds occur at Three Peaks between April and September and several species nest in that area. Important habitats for these species include Pinyon and juniper woodland, sagebrush-steppe, and grasslands.

Mule deer are found throughout the Three Peaks area in low numbers from late October to early May. There is no crucial deer winter range in the proposed SRMA.

Federal Land to Frank Nichols: This discussion includes all of the public lands involved in the exchange which would not be in or adjacent to the proposed SRMA. All these lands were inventoried for endangered, threatened, candidate, and state sensitive animals and plants in 1997, 1998, 2003 or 2004. Bald eagle (threatened) is a common winter visitor of Cedar Valley between November 1 and March 15 and individual birds have been occasionally observed in the Iron Springs area, so bald eagles may use some or all of these parcels for hunting. No eagle night roosts occur on any of the tracts. No other threatened, endangered, or candidate species were found during inventories and there is no suitable habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican spotted owl, California condor, or yellow-billed cuckoo on any of these lands.

BLM state sensitive species found in the project area include ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, Lewis woodpecker, greater sage-grouse, kit fox, and pygmy rabbit. Greater sage-grouse and pygmy rabbit have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Ferruginous hawk and burrowing owl are summer residents (April-September), but none were found on any of these tracts and there are no known nesting records within 0.5 mile of any of the parcels. There is no suitable sage grouse habitat on any of the parcels. Potential pygmy rabbit and kit fox habitat was surveyed in 2004, but no sign of kit fox or pygmy rabbit, including burrows, tracks, or pellets were found in any of the surveys and no potentially suitable habitat was found.

All of the public parcels have high value mule deer winter range used by deer from mid October to early May. Important forage plants on these parcels are Wyoming big sagebrush, bitterbrush, and cliffrose. Several species of raptors use the selected lands for hunting, but no nests were found during inventories of those lands. Neotropical migratory birds that use the lands in spring and summer include gray flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, sage sparrow, black-throated sparrow, and lark sparrow.

Nichols Property to BLM: This discussion includes all of the private lands involved in the exchanges which are not in or adjacent to the proposed SRMA. They were inventoried for endangered, threatened, and state sensitive animals and plants in 1997, 1998, 2003 or 2004. Bald eagle occurs on the Cedar Canyon, Parowan Gap, and Highway 20 parcels between November 1 and March 15. Primarily use of those areas by eagles is for hunting. No bald eagle night roosts occur on any of these lands. Utah prairie dogs occur in scattered colonies throughout Cedar and Parowan valleys, but no prairie dogs occur on any of the private parcels. An active prairie dog colony occurs less than 0.5 mile from the Highway 20 parcel. While this parcel does not contain any occupied or currently suitable habitat, the parcel contains potential prairie dog habitat, if treated by sagebrush removal. There is no suitable habitat for southwestern willow.

Greater sage-grouse are included in the Utah BLM state sensitive species list. Sage grouse habitat, including an active lek, occurs on the Parowan Gap parcel offered in the Nichols land exchange. Sage grouse use occurs mainly in late winter and early spring, but a few birds remain in the vicinity in late spring and summer and possibly nest. Birds have been seen in the general area throughout the year.

Migratory nongame birds found on the offered parcels include turkey vulture, gray flycatcher, ash-throated flycatcher, western kingbird, violet-green swallow, rock wren, mountain bluebird, northern mockingbird, sage thrasher, black-throated gray warbler, chipping sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, lark sparrow, sage sparrow, Brewer's blackbird, and brown-headed cowbird. Migratory birds occur on the private lands between April and September and several species nest in those areas. Important habitats for these species include riparian, Pinyon and juniper woodland, sagebrush-steppe, and grasslands.

All of the parcels at Cedar Canyon, Highway 20, and Butcher Spring contain high value mule deer winter range which is used from mid October to early May. Elk use the Butcher Spring parcel in spring, summer, and fall. Parowan Gap contains 614 acres of yearlong pronghorn habitat, which is used by around 30 animals. Use by all of these animals is light.

3.3.12. Vegetation/Utah Standards and Guidelines

Upland vegetation is mainly sagebrush and grasslands with some areas of Pinyon Pine and Utah juniper in the Jenson, Iron Springs, Eight Mile Hills, Mine, Big Hollow Wash, Stateline, and Sherratt allotments. Vegetation in the Parowan Gap and Bone Hollow allotments is mostly sagebrush, winterfat, and grasslands. There is a substantial area of annual forb weeds on both the present public lands and on the private proposed for exchange. Utah Standards and Guidelines assessments have not been conducted on the allotments involved in the Three Peaks SRMA and the land exchanges; therefore, it is unknown if Standards and Guidelines are being met with present livestock management. Conformance with the Standards and Guidelines will be determined in the future during the grazing permit renewal process.

3.3.13. Woodland

The proposed action would mainly affect two tree species; Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*). The total area estimated to contain these species is 2,585 acres of which 1,180 acres are selected BLM lands and 1,405 acres are offered private and SITLA lands. Production of woodland (Pinyon pine and Utah juniper) resources from these areas is listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Production of Woodland Resources

Parcel	Acres	Cords Fuelwood	Cedar Posts	Christmas Trees
Nichols (selected)	810	1782	16200	810
Nichols (offered)	605	1331	12100	605
SITLA (selected)	360	814	7400	360
SITLA (offered)	800	1760	16000	800

The quantity and quality of pinenuts available on these parcels is unknown. About 40 acres of the Cedar Canyon parcel of the Nichols Exchange also contains tree species associated with Pinyon Pine and Utah Juniper, such as cottonwood, Rocky Mountain juniper and White fir.

The Three Peaks area has been utilized over the years for the harvest of various woodland resources including cutting of live trees for fuelwood, Christmas trees and cedar (juniper) posts. This type of use, much of it unauthorized, still occurs on a regular basis. While most public lands in Iron County are available for the harvest of woodland products, the area has been popular due to its proximity to residential areas.

3.3.14. Land Use Plan

The Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony RMP Record of Decision was approved in October 1986. It has been amended several times. The following plan decisions would need to be amended for this proposed action: Recreation decision B.1 which states, “Manage the CBGA planning area as an Extensive Recreation Management Area utilizing extensive, unstructured and custodial management principles”; Recreation Decision B.3 which states, “Develop an ORV Management Plan and designate public lands as depicted on Recreation Map 1 into the following ORV categories by 1987: Open, 1,023,700 and limited to existing roads and trails...”; and Forestry B.1, which states: “.... Continue to authorize harvest of posts, Christmas trees, and pinenuts area-wide.” There is not a decision in the plan which addresses shooting on public lands. However, the area would be closed to firearm use, unless specifically authorized. The description of the Proposed Action in Chapter 2 describes the new proposed decisions. This EA provides the required NEPA analysis of the proposed action and is part of the plan amendment process as described in Section 2.2.5.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

4.1. Introduction

This section describes the changes which could occur to the existing environment if the proposed action or alternative are implemented.

4.1.1. Analysis Assumptions and Guidelines

BLM and Iron County would have sufficient funding and staff to carry out the proposed action; The actions would be implemented as described in Chapter 2; Lands which would pass into private ownership would likely be developed into residential neighborhoods and a golf course; The demand for existing recreational activities in the SRMA would continue to increase.

4.2. Direct/Indirect Impacts

4.2.1. Proposed Action

4.2.1.1. Invasive Non-native Species

The increased use of the area by people, domestic animals, and vehicles could bring more sources of weeds into the area. By limiting mechanized vehicle use to designated roads and trails, however, this impact would be less than that expected from the No Action alternative.

4.2.1.2. Livestock Grazing

The land exchange component of the proposed action, when implemented, would either remove or add Federal acreage to ten allotments. The magnitude and direction of the change in acreage and the change in estimated forage availability is summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Change of Acreage and Estimated Forage Availability

Allotment/Permittee	Net change		
	Acres	Animal Unit Months	Percent of total AUMs (Active)
Sherratt	-583	-77	-81
Big Hollow Wash	-161	-4	-1
Iron Springs	-209	0	0
	435	0	0
Jenson	489	0	0
Mine	-167	-20	-100
Parowan Gap	614	42	+8
Stateline	320	6	+3
Eight Mile Hills	-667	-48	-32
Swett Hills	-69	-4	-4
Bone Hollow	306	0	0

The Sherratt Allotment is 79% public land and 21% private land. The active preference and percent Federal land on the Sherratt Allotment would be reduced by the SITLA and Nichols land exchanges. Approximately 458 acres and 59 AUMs would be lost in the SITLA exchange and 125 acres and 18 AUMs in the Nichols exchange. Approximately 331 acres and 18 AUMs of the allotment would be maintained as public lands. There is no water on the portion of the allotment that would remain under BLM management; the private lands contain the only water for the allotment. Without water, remaining public lands after the exchange would be unsuitable for grazing unless water was hauled. The value of the Sherratt Allotment would be further reduced by lack of a fence between, and the close proximity to, the remaining public lands in the Jensen Allotment and the GTPSRMA. In addition, the lands acquired by the state in the exchange could be sold to a private developer so the remaining portion of the allotment would be inaccessible to the permittees. In summary, the remaining Sherratt Allotment would have minimal value for grazing use because of lack of water and accessibility.

The Big Hollow Wash Allotment permits would be impacted by the SITLA land exchange and would need to be reduced by 4 AUMs due to a decrease in Federal acreage. This would be less than a one percent change in use on the allotment.

The Iron Springs Allotment would be impacted by the SITLA and Nichols land exchanges. The allotment would gain 435 acres of state land in the SITLA exchange and lose 209 acres in the Nichols exchange for a net gain of 224 acres. This allotment would not see a net increase in AUMs due to the grazing use being in excess of the estimated actual carrying capacities of Federal land within the allotments. Soil and Vegetation Inventory Method (SVIM) analysis 1981 to 1984 recommended a 57% adjustment from 625 AUMs to 307 AUMs and available monitoring data indicates no use to heavy utilization in the BLM portion of the allotment.

The Jensen Allotment would be impacted by the SITLA land exchange with state owned lands becoming Federal. The allotment would gain 489 acres of public land through the land exchange. However, the Jensen Allotment would not see a net increase in AUMs due to the grazing use being in excess of the estimated actual carrying capacities of Federal land within the allotment. SVIM analysis recommended a 21% reduction in AUMs from 225 AUMs to 178 AUMs and available monitoring data indicated light to heavy use in the allotment.

The Mine Allotment would cease to exist. One hundred percent of the public land would be lost from the SITLA and Nichols exchanges. Permitted use on public land would be cancelled by decision. Public land, however, accounts for only 5 percent of the allotment, leaving almost all allotment acreage still available to the permittees on their private land.

The Parowan Gap Allotment would be impacted by the Nichols exchange. The allotment would gain 614.4 acres and 42 AUMs and a water right which could be a future asset. SVIM and available monitoring data indicates the estimated actual carrying capacities of Federal lands within the allotment are not in excess and the increase is warranted due to the addition of 614.4 acres.

The Stateline Allotment would be impacted by the Nichols exchange. The allotment would gain 320 acres and 6 AUMs and a water right which could be used for livestock purposes. Available monitoring data indicates the increase is warranted due to the addition of 320 acres.

The Eight Mile Hills Allotment would be impacted by the Nichols exchange. The allotment would lose 667 acres and 48 AUMs, or 32 percent of their total AUMs. The permittee for the allotment is York Jones, although the allotment has been leased to Spencer and Craig Jones. York Jones also owns private land adjacent to the Eight Mile Hills Allotment which is also leased by Spencer and Craig Jones. Sheep have used the public and private land concurrently during the winter, utilizing private land water sources. The Nichols exchange would divide the public land allotment from the private land, depriving the allotment of the only water source available. Should the proposed exchange lands be developed, fenced, or otherwise excluded, livestock would no longer be able to trail to the private land and water would need to be hauled to the remaining acres in the Eight Mile Hills Allotment. Roads which exist on the proposed exchange parcel might also be unavailable in the future, depriving the livestock owners of existing access routes. It should be noted, however, that not all of the public land proposed for exchange on this allotment may be used in the exchange. If historic properties are found or land value appraisals dictate, some of the parcel may remain in public ownership, relieving some of these impacts.

The Swett Hills Allotment would be impacted by the Nichols exchange. The allotment would lose 69 acres and 4 AUMs, or 4 percent of their total AUMs due to a decrease in Federal acreage. The allotment is adjacent to private land owned by Jones Land and Livestock. Craig and Spencer Jones are the permittees of record because they lease the base property to which the Swett Hills Allotment grazing qualifications are attached. The small loss of AUMs would not likely affect their livestock operation, but the exchange could create a loss of a road used for access to the western portion of the allotment.

The Bone Hollow Allotment would be impacted by the Nichols exchange with the allotment gaining 306 acres. However, the Bone Hollow Allotment would not have a net gain in AUMs due to available monitoring data indicating that this portion of the allotment has a problem with weeds and is in poor ecological condition. The Highway 20 parcel is located within the Bone Hollow Allotment.

The proposed SRMA would occur in the Iron Springs and Jensen allotments. The Iron Springs Allotment is only 29% public land and is used from 03/01 to 02/28. It is anticipated that developed recreation sites would have minimal impact to livestock grazing in this allotment. The proposed recreation sites would include a portion of the large group camping and parking area, the water tank, and several camp sites totaling approximately 11 acres. Livestock seldom get into the area where the proposed large group area and campsites would be located due to lack of water and the topography of the area. There are established mountain bike, equestrian, and OHV trails throughout the Iron Springs Allotment. This use has been occurring for years and it is anticipated the proposed recreation area would not substantially increase the conflicts in the area due to better managed recreation use.

The Jensen Allotment would be more impacted by the Three Peaks SRMA due to the developed recreation sites. These sites would affect approximately 70 acres in the Jensen Allotment. This allotment is scheduled for grazing by 1350 sheep from 02/01 to 02/28. A portion of the large group camping and parking area, the extension of the R&PP lease, the remote controlled model airplane facility and several trail heads are proposed in the allotment. Mountain bike riding, horse backing riding, and OHV use has been occurring in the Jensen Allotment for years. Conflicts between public land users and livestock has occurred but kept to a minimum because authorized sheep grazing occurs for one month of the year in February, when recreational use is low. However, this may change as recreation pressure increases in the area. In order to prevent conflict between public land users and livestock at the recreation sites, it is recommended in the proposed action that the sheep be herded at all times and that they avoid the developed recreation sites. Since this would only occur for one month in the year, it is not expected to create a financial hardship for the permittee.

The land exchanges would be beneficial to the public because the area inside the proposed recreation area would be under one agencies' management instead of two.

4.2.1.3. Public Safety

Limiting all mechanized use in the SRMA to designated roads and trails should decrease the potential of danger from mine workings. Delineating trails as motorized and non-motorized should greatly reduce the potential for accidents. Signing along the trails and on kiosks should increase public awareness of livestock in the area, reducing conflicts and injury to humans and animals. Roads to the trailheads and main recreation use areas would be graded by either the County or BLM. Others would be designated as trails or closed and rehabilitated. Prohibiting firearm use in the SRMA would greatly reduce the potential of public injury in the SRMA but firearm users and hunters would need to use the adjacent Iron County shooting range or go elsewhere on public land. Hunters could access other available hunting areas.

4.2.1.4. Recreation

The management direction and management actions being proposed in the plan would have varying degrees of impact to the recreational opportunities present in the area. The long-term impact on recreational motorized users would be fewer miles of routes, due to requirements of motorized users to employ only designated roads and trails. However, those that remain would be well signed and would likely see periodic maintenance. The strategy of signing, handout maps and portal kiosk displays would tend to decrease the number of motorized users going cross-country.

Creating bicycle, hiker, and equestrian emphasis areas would tend to decrease conflict between user groups.

With the construction of informational and educational kiosks, the public would better understand the rules of use and would be better oriented as they enter the area. Many users would appreciate and respect this approach to visitor management. Those wanting a less-managed area would perhaps be displaced elsewhere.

By providing educational/instructional signing, parking, trailheads and vault toilets at each user group area, the needs of each group would be equitably met. The proposed developments would allow for camping, picnicking, easier parking, water and other facilities which should improve the user experience.

Some current users would be displaced, including wood harvesters, pinenut gatherers, hunters, shooters and those who wish to travel cross-country on OHVs and bicycles. Since almost all of the public land in Iron County is open to these uses, the primary impact would be travel to another location which might be a few miles further from the users' point of origin. Those who wish to use firearms could proceed west of the proposed SRMA to the official Iron County Shooting Facility.

Recreational opportunities in Cedar Canyon would be protected by assuring access to Coal Creek and adjacent public land.

4.2.1.5. Riparian

Disposal of the public land would transfer less than 0.1 mile of nonfunctioning, poor quality riparian habitat along Iron Springs Creek out of Federal ownership. Acquisition of the Coal Creek and Butcher Spring land parcels would place an additional 1.5 miles and 1.7 acres of riparian habitat in Federal ownership to be managed for its riparian, wildlife, and recreation values. Riparian habitat is extremely rare in southwestern Utah and is valuable for nongame, small game, and big game wildlife. Wildlife use riparian areas for food, water, cover, and nesting sites. Riparian habitat obtained by the Federal Government is likely to remain in proper functioning condition due to the BLM riparian policy. Utah riparian policy of maintaining riparian-wetlands in proper functioning condition would be met under this alternative.

4.2.1.6. Socio-Economics

Almost all of the uses proposed in the SRMA have been ongoing for several years. Most, like hiking, camping, equestrian and mountain bike use do not create much noise or dust and their continuance would not likely be a nuisance to nearby residential developments. Two current ongoing activities, OHV use and rock crawling competitions, do create dust and noise. OHV use would no longer be authorized except on designated roads and trails, most of which would be located over a mile west of the Cedar Valley Acres subdivision. This restriction should actually decrease the potential for noise and dust from OHV use becoming a nuisance to residential land owners when compared with the No Action alternative. The location for rock crawling events would continue on the R&PP. The number of events, and subsequent effects from this activity, would be similar under either alternative.

Two activities would be new to the Three Peaks area, the remote-controlled model airplane area and the motocross track. The former could result in increased noise from the model airplane motors. A noise test was conducted in December 2004 for the planes. The planes registered on a decibel meter at 90 dbA at a distance of about 2 feet. At a distance of 200 yards from the source, the noise level was minimal. The planes do not usually travel more than 200 yards from the landing strip, so the sound should be minimal about 400 yards from the landing strip. Although the sound level would vary due to atmospheric conditions, these motors would not likely be heard from the nearest residential area, located about 1 mile to the northeast. Since the model

airplanes can only be used during daylight hours, no noise would be generated during nighttime sleeping hours. Additional dust would not be expected from this activity except for motor vehicles accessing the area during events. This impact is expected to be minimal.

The greatest increase in new noise and dust would result from the motocross track. Motocross bikes generally create over 92 decibels of sound for extended periods of time from a distance of 50 feet or more (Dirt Rider Magazine, 2004). This sound could likely be heard one to two miles away, depending on atmospheric conditions. A test run in a court case in Ohio (Angerman vs. Burick) showed motocross activity creating up to 72 dbA of sound about 1000 feet from the track. The noise was claimed to have been heard in a home about 4000 feet from the racecourse with the windows closed. Noise from this activity could reach the private residence over 3000 feet east of the track and could reach, at a lower decibel level, the southernmost homes in the Cedar Valley Acres subdivision. The track would be constructed within the large bowl area of the crater which might diminish the sound levels from those noted in the court case. Dust would be generated by this activity, but is not expected to travel far due to the coarse nature of local soils and the majority of use being contained in the crater. The motocross track would not be used for commercial events, so it anticipated that large numbers of bikes would not be using the track simultaneously. The track would give dirt bikers the opportunity to practice their skills in an informal, cost-free environment.

The proposed action could increase revenue to the County as the proposed Three Peaks SRMA area became more attractive for commercial activities, such as additional rock-crawling events. Additional revenue to local businesses could also result from an increase of out-of-town visitor use, although this is not anticipated to be substantial when compared with the revenue incurred from existing community events.

Both land exchanges would provide private developers with prime lands for the construction of homes and golf courses that would stimulate the local economy and increase the tax base for Iron County. It could also increase the land value of adjacent private lands, such as those owned by York Jones in the Eight Mile Hills Allotment.

Several livestock operations would be affected by the land exchanges, as explained in 4.2.1.2, above. The Sherratt, Mine, Eight Mile Hills, Swett Hills and Big Hollow Wash allotments would have a reduction in AUMs, while the Parowan Gap and Stateline allotments would see an increase in AUMs.

The Sherratt Allotment is run by Dan and John Sherratt. They have been using their entire permitted use on the public land adjacent to their private ranch. The decrease of their AUMS would make it difficult to continue their operation without finding other land or reducing their number of livestock. This would have an economic impact on their livestock operation.

The Mine Allotment is used by two permittees: the Melvin and Glenna Bulloch Trust and Hazel and Nelson Bulloch. The permit held by Hazel and Nelson Bulloch has not been activated in years, so the reduction should not have an economic impact on their operation. The permit run by the Melvin and Glenna Bulloch Trust includes a 20 acre lot fenced into their private land. The public parcel is only 5 percent of the allotment; consequently, the impact should be able to

be absorbed into the adjacent private land with little or minimal economic impact to the permittee.

The Eight Mile Hills and Swett Hills allotments are run by Craig and Spencer Jones, while the permits are owned by York Jones and Jones Land and Livestock Co. (Kerry Jones, Kenneth Jones, Cindy Line). Craig and Spencer Jones use four different allotments between 12/15 – 3/10 to graze 1200 sheep. The Eight Mile Hills Allotment is generally used for two weeks in this period while Swett Hills Allotment is used for an average of three weeks. Averages of 48 AUMs have been used by Craig and Spencer Jones in the last ten years on the Eight Mile Hills Allotment, while the permitted use is 151 AUMs. On the Swett Hills Allotment over the last 10 years, averages of 53 AUMs have been used annually while permitted use is for 105 AUMs. The loss of 48 and 4 AUMs, respectively, would not impact their total permitted use within the allotments. The loss of access to water and ability to trail to the adjacent private land, however, could economically impact their operation. Water and livestock would need to be hauled to the remaining public land on the Eight Mile Hills Allotment, unless an easement was negotiated with the new land owner. If not all of the acres proposed for exchange are used when the appraisal process is complete, this impact might be alleviated to some extent.

Big Hollow Wash would lose about 4 AUMs, which would be less than 1 percent of their total permitted use. The Clark Brothers and Clark Livestock also have adjacent private land to absorb this impact. This change should not economically affect their operation.

The Parowan Gap and Stateline allotments would gain AUMs, but the percentage increase would be small and the economic impact would be minimal.

4.2.1.7. Soils

Most of the soils found in the proposed SRMA are coarse with only a thin layer of topsoil. They do not contain many organics and do not regenerate rapidly. Any ground disturbance would likely cause topsoil loss which could not be mitigated in the short term. These soils tend to be rocky, and therefore are not easily transported. Subsequently, most ground disturbance should result in little increased erosion or soil movement.

4.2.1.8. Wildlife and TES Wildlife Species

Development of the Three Peaks Recreation Area and the land exchanges would have no adverse effect on bald eagles, pygmy rabbit, or any other Federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate, or state sensitive species except for Utah prairie dogs. The proposed action may effect but is not likely to adversely affect Utah prairie dogs due to the loss of historic habitat. Development of the land exchange parcels adjacent to the SRMA, facilities at Three Peaks and increased visitor use in the future would impact raptors, nongame migratory birds, and mule deer. Birds are more likely to be disturbed during the spring/early summer nesting period by the increased visitor use, vehicle traffic, and the associated increase in noise, which would increase stress and possible nest abandonment. However, there is adequate habitat adjacent to the recreation area to mitigate this concern. Since the proposed action would limit motorized use to designated roads and trails, this alternative would have a smaller impact to wildlife than the No Action Alternative.

Portions of the proposed Three Peaks SRMA are likely to experience additional visitor use as new facilities and roads are developed. Vehicle traffic would continue to increase throughout the area. Disturbances to deer would range from light disturbance during the winter months when much of the SRMA is inaccessible to fairly high disturbance in spring. Development of new facilities and roads in the future would result in substantially higher spring visitor use which would affect deer. Disturbance to wintering deer would add stress and unnecessary expenditure of energy. Deer would probably avoid areas of high visitor use and select undeveloped areas with lighter visitor use. Deer and wildlife would be protected from hunting within the SRMA. Since the deer use is low in the SRMA and the area is not critical habitat, impacts to population numbers and herd viability would be very small.

The prairie dog habitat in the proposed SRMA has been damaged by OHV use. The proposed action would help to alleviate this impact by restricting use to designated roads and trails. However, it is doubtful that the mapped habitat could be used by prairie dogs now or in the future due to increased recreation use. The proposed mitigation in Long Hollow would allow for habitat improvement in an area which is used primarily by livestock and wildlife.

Federal Land to Nichols: This discussion includes all of the public lands involved in the exchange which would not be in or adjacent to the proposed SRMA. Disposal of the public parcels in the Nichols exchange would result in about 650 acres of high value deer winter range, 1460 acres of nongame migratory bird habitat, and less than 0.1 mile of nonfunctioning, poor quality riparian habitat along Iron Springs Creek transferring into private ownership. At least some of these lands would be used for residential development and golf courses, resulting in a loss of habitat.

Nichols Property to BLM: This discussion includes all of the private lands involved in the exchange which would not be in or adjacent to the proposed SRMA. Acquisition of the private parcels would have no immediate effect on threatened, endangered, or candidate species. However, a portion of the Highway 20 parcel may be suitable for treatment as potential prairie dog habitat. Acquiring the Parowan Gap property would allow BLM to protect all habitat at the sage grouse lek by expanding the existing seasonal OHV closure to include the acquired land. BLM would acquire 1.5 miles of riparian habitat along Coal Creek and 1.7 acres of wetlands at Butcher Spring, which would provide important wildlife cover, food, and water sources. BLM would acquire nearly 900 acres of deer winter range at Cedar Canyon, Three Peaks, Highway 20, and Butcher Spring, 320 acres of elk habitat at Butcher Spring, and 614 acres of pronghorn habitat at Parowan Gap. BLM would acquire around 1810 acres of migratory nongame bird habitat.

BLM would obtain a net increase of about 340 acres of wildlife habitat, including 1.5 miles of riparian habitat along Coal Creek, 1.7 acres of wetlands at Butcher Spring, 614 acres of sage grouse habitat at Parowan Gap, and potential Utah prairie dog habitat at Highway 20.

4.2.1.9. Vegetation/Utah Standards and Guidelines

The SITLA and Nichols land exchanges could result in changes to vegetation types on the land which would become private. Residential development would change vegetation to landscape plantings while any golf courses would be vegetated with grass. Lands acquired by the BLM in

the exchanges would be subject to the Utah Standards and Guidelines. Approximately 80 acres in the proposed Three Peaks SRMA would be disturbed in the Jenson and Iron Springs allotments during construction of the developed recreation sites. Some vegetation would be destroyed during the construction activities and recreation use after the construction. However, this would be minimized through rehabilitation efforts in newly disturbed areas. Vegetation and land health standards in the remaining portions of the proposed recreation area would likely improve because mechanized use would be restricted to designated roads and trails.

4.2.1.10. Woodland

Since the GTPSRMA would be closed to the collection of woodland resources, these resources would not be available to the public in the SRMA. The woodland species would be better protected due to the increased presence of law enforcement because the level of unauthorized harvest would decrease. The number and diversity of woodland species should increase.

4.2.1.11. Land Use Plan

The three land use plan decisions would be amended as described in sections 2.2.5 and 3.3.14, above. Other plan decisions which would be affected include the change in the number of AUMs in the affected grazing allotments and the closing of the Mine Allotment.

4.2.1.12. Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation measures are required beyond those contained in the proposed action.

4.2.1.13. Monitoring and/or Compliance

The SRMA would be monitored by BLM and county law enforcement personnel on a regular, but unscheduled, basis. Noxious weeds would be monitored and treated annually as part of the BLM and Iron County's weed control program. Impacts from recreation use would be monitored at least annually by BLM and county personnel. BLM would continue to conduct PFC assessments of riparian areas on a periodic basis, probably once every 5 to 10 years. Monitoring of the Utah prairie dog mitigation project would be ongoing to determine the level of success of the treatment.

4.2.1.14. Consistency

The Three Peaks area lies within Iron County and subsequently is covered by the Iron County General Plan adopted October 10, 1995. The plan has been reviewed and it has been determined that the proposed action would be consistent with the General Plan, which encourages recreation in the area. The Iron County Commission supports the proposed action and has signed a cooperative management agreement with BLM regarding this proposal and the uses of the proposed R&PP lease amendment.

4.2.2. Alternative B - No Action

The following impacts would occur even if the proposed action is not approved. It is assumed that recreation use would continue to increase in the area and that special recreation use permits would be considered on an individual basis. It is also assumed that the private lands which would not be acquired would remain in their current condition and management, except for the Cedar Canyon parcel which would likely be developed for recreation and roadway purposes.

4.2.2.1. Invasive/Non-native Species

The Three Peaks area would still see increased recreation use which could increase the spread of weeds. Since mechanized vehicles would not be limited to designated roads and trails in this alternative, the spread of weeds would likely cover a larger area than the proposed action. BLM and Iron County would still monitor public lands for weeds and attempt to control known occurrences.

4.2.2.2. Livestock Grazing

The changes in AUMs as a result of the exchanges would not occur, but the impacts from increasing recreation would still result in decreased forage and increased recreation/livestock conflicts within the Three Peaks area. Water rights for livestock would not be acquired by the Federal Government. Adequate forage would still be unavailable in some allotments, as described in section 3.3.4, above. This issue would have to be addressed by other land management decisions.

4.2.2.3. Public Safety

Increased recreation use would still occur. There would be no limitations on use and conflicts and accidents between different types of users would likely increase. Known physical hazards from past mining activities would be mitigated if found, but unknown workings would still hold a danger to those traveling off-road. The lack of parking could cause vehicular conflicts. The main eastern access road from Cedar City would still be graded, but others roads would not likely improve. As increased visitor use occurred, the potential for the public to be harmed from firearm use would increase.

4.2.2.4. Recreation

All existing recreational activities would continue and likely increase. The lack of facilities might limit this increase and lack of water and sanitary facilities would discourage some users. Some users would probably feel a greater sense of freedom under this alternative, although their satisfaction could also be affected by the lack of campgrounds and other facilities and conflicts with other users. Some current users could become dissatisfied and be displaced.

OHV use would see no regulatory change, and with no signing or orientation maps available to tell recreationists where they are or what trails exist, the continual spread of additional routes would result. Camping would continue to occur in a haphazard fashion. The practice of constructing user-created trails without involving the BLM or Iron County in environmental evaluation of the locations and consequences would continue. Conflicts between user groups would remain with the potential for incursions into other groups' chosen trails and sites. Some users might choose to go elsewhere to avoid the conflicts in the SRMA.

Authorizations for such uses such as the motocross track and the remote controlled model airplane facility would not be issued. These activities could still occur in an informal dispersed manner throughout the area.

4.2.2.5. Riparian

Not acquiring the Coal Creek and Butcher Spring parcels would leave them in private ownership. Riparian habitat would be subject to possible future developments for recreation and roadway expansion. Riparian habitat values could be lost through those developments.

4.2.2.6. Socio-Economics

Under this alternative, all current uses could continue. The motocross track would not be built, but motocross bikes could still use the general area. The remote-controlled model airplane users could also utilize the area, although they would not have a paved landing strip. The dust and noise from OHV use would cover a larger area including areas adjacent to the residential developments. Economic benefits to the County and community would likely be less than the proposed action due to the lack of facilities and increased user conflicts. Development and land values would likely still increase on the private land adjacent to Three Peaks, but this might occur at a slower rate. There would be little or no economic impact to grazing permittees.

4.2.2.7. Soils

Soils would be disturbed by continued recreation use. Fewer authorized developments would result in less soil disturbance and subsequent erosion than the proposed action. However, cross-country travel by vehicles would disturb more soil than the developments included in the proposed action.

4.2.2.8. Vegetation/Utah Standards and Guidelines

The greatest loss of vegetation in the SRMA area is and would be the result of unrestricted vehicular use. Consequently, the no action alternative would result in a greater loss of vegetation and watershed health in the SRMA than the proposed action. Vegetation along Coal Creek could be lost through future development for recreation and roadway expansion.

4.2.2.9. Wildlife and Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Wildlife

Recreation use would continue to increase, but would have no effect on Federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate, or state sensitive animal or plant species, as explained in Chapter 3. Increased visitor use and associated vehicle traffic in the prairie dog habitat would continue, which would further degrade this habitat. The Long Hollow habitat improvement project would still be initiated as part of the overall prairie dog plan in the field office area, but it is unknown when this would occur.

BLM would retain 1,472 acres of deer winter range at Iron Springs, but would not have the opportunity to acquire 1.5 miles of riparian habitat on Coal Creek, 1.7 acres of wetlands at Butcher Spring, and other wildlife habitat on 1815 acres at Three Peaks, Parowan Gap, Highway 20, and Butcher Spring.

4.2.2.10. Woodland

Authorized and unauthorized harvest of fuelwood, cedar posts, and Christmas trees would continue and would likely increase. Increased recreation use would further denude popular sections of the Three Peaks area, affecting both the woodland resource and the visitor experience.

4.2.3. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are those impacts resulting from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

4.2.3.1. Reasonably Foreseeable Action Scenario (RFAS)

Other developments in the Three Peaks area would likely include additional recreational resources and private residential development. An archery range may be developed to the west of the proposed SRMA. A proposed off-road vehicle route, currently called the High Desert Trail, would likely pass by and through the recreation area.

4.2.3.2. Cumulative Impacts

Grazing in the Three Peaks area has been occurring for the last 100 years and other activities such as hunting, OHV, horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking have been occurring for decades. Past mining has affected large areas, leaving mine pits, waste dumps and other workings. The recreation and mining activities have created numerous roads, trails and other denuded areas. More recent commercial and large group events have also left areas devoid of vegetation and obviously impacted. The Three Peaks area has been used for the dumping of household waste. These cumulative impacts from the historic and recent past have prompted the need for the proposed action. Without the proposed action, the anticipated future increase in recreation would escalate environmental degradation and decrease public safety. It is anticipated that the proposed action would help to alleviate some of these impacts by controlling uses and minimizing additional impacts to the natural environment.

The parcels which would be obtained by the Federal government through the Nichols exchange have important sage grouse, deer winter range and riparian resources. These resources are diminishing on public land due to private land development. Past and potential impacts to riparian habitat on the Nichols parcels include road development and maintenance, stream channel alteration, camping, hiking, and urban developments. These impacts could be controlled in the future and the resources protected by the proposed action because the parcels would be in Federal ownership.

The Federal lands which the proposed action would place in private ownership are likely to be developed for subdivisions in the future, which would negatively affect adjacent undeveloped deer winter range as a result of increased human disturbances on those areas. This impact would be cumulative to the impacts to deer from increased recreation within the proposed SRMA.

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1. Introduction

The recreation management plan which was used to prepare the proposed action was developed with input from a number of interest groups, listed below.

5.2. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)	Informal Consultation, under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531)	Consultation in progress.
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	Consulted about Operation Mine Shaft	Ongoing Investigation
Utah Department of Environmental Quality	Consulted about Operation Mine Shaft	Ongoing Investigation
Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Consultation as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, 16 USC 470)	Concurred with finding of no effect in letter dated 1 December 2004.
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	Consulted regarding closing the GTPSRMA to hunting	Requested the area be closed by County Ordinance.
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah.	Consultation as required by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 and NHPA	Consultation complete as of memo dated 2/18/2005
Color Country Cycling Club	Consulted to address the needs of their user group.	Input helped to develop the management plan.
Color Country 4-wheelers	Consulted to address the needs of their user group.	Input helped to develop the management plan.
Cedar Breaks District Boy Scouts of America	Consulted to address the needs of their user group.	Input helped to develop the management plan.
Back Country Horsemen	Consulted to address the needs of their user group.	Input helped to develop the management plan.
Cedar City Radio Control Club	Consulted to address the needs of their user group.	Input helped to develop the management plan.
Wasatch Trails Association	Consulted to address the needs of their user group.	Input helped to develop the management plan.
Craig and Spencer Jones, York Jones, Mel and Hazel Bulloch, Jones Land and Livestock Co. (Kerry Jones, Kenneth Jones, Cindy Line), Sherratt Farms (Dan and John Sherratt), Brown Farms (Michael Brown)	Livestock permittees who would be losing AUMs	Notified by letter of proposed changes to their livestock operations.
Three Peaks Steering Committee: Scott Truman – Utah Rural Development Council; Lee Schwendiman - SITLA; Lynn Leaney, Mike Dean, Frank Nichols – developers; Todd Christensen and Randy Trujillo – BLM; Gene Roundy, Dennis Stowell, or Wayne Smith - Iron County Commissioners	Involved Parties	Met periodically to discuss project and implementation schedule.

5.2.1. Summary of Public Participation

In order to address the recreation management issues of the Three Peaks area, a committee of citizens was formed by Iron County to work with the BLM in December of 2002. In March of 2003 a Cooperative Management Agreement was signed by the BLM and Iron County for the purpose of managing and developing the Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area for multiple and compatible recreation uses (located in case file). Meetings were held beginning in December of 2002, which invited various groups and individuals to share their thoughts and ideas on possible management practices for the Greater Three Peaks SRMA. The project was placed on the Electronic Notification Bulletin Board in April, 2003. The BLM resource specialists began research for the project in January 2004. Input from all of these sources determined the issues which have been addressed in this document. Other resources which were considered but were determined to not be affected by the proposed action are addressed in Appendix 1.

On May 25, 2004, BLM initiated action to formally designate the Greater Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in the RMP by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to amend the Cedar, Beaver, Garfield, Antimony RMP. No comments were received in response to the Notice of Intent.

Notice of this EA was mailed to the public on April 1, 2005; comments will be received until May 2, 2005. An open house for the public will be held on April 8, 2005. If, following public comment, the BLM finds that the environmental impacts of the proposed action would be less than significant, and continues to propose an amendment to the land use plan, a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the proposed land use plan amendment along with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the EA will be provided to the Utah Governors Office for a consistency review. The NOA/FONSI/EA also will be made available to the public and a 30-day protest period will be offered before a Decision Record (DR) is signed. Public comments will be responded to in the EA and DR.

5.3. List of Preparers

5.3.1. BLM Preparers:

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Gina Ginouves	Team Leader	Project Lead, Impact analysis for soils and recreation resources. Member of Three Peaks Recreation Committee
Steve Hedges	Wildlife Biologist	Impact analysis for wildlife and riparian resources, TES wildlife and plant species and Section 7 Consultation
Ed Ginouves	Mining Engineer	Impact analysis for minerals and mining.
Becky Bonebrake	Wildlife Biologist	Mitigation proposal for Utah prairie dogs.
Rich Barry	Range Management Specialist	Impact analysis for range and vegetation resources and Utah Standards and Guidelines.
Bob Edwards	Natural Resource Specialist	Impact analysis for noxious weeds and woodland resources.
Anne Stanworth	Public Affairs specialist	Native American Consultation and review. Member of Three Peaks Recreation Committee
Gardiner Dalley	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Ervin Larsen	Realty Specialist	Land Exchanges and R&PP analysis.
Randy Peterson	HazMat Specialist	Solid and Hazardous Waste analysis
Wade Judy	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Assisted in recreation analysis and plan development. Member of Three Peaks Recreation Committee.

5.3.2. Non –BLM Preparers:

Three Peaks Recreation Committee	Gene Roundy – Iron County Commissioner Lois Bulloch, R.L. Gardner (chair), Art Tait, Tom Cardon	Helped to develop and review management plan and environmental assessment.
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6.0 REFERENCES CITED

Angerman, et al vs. Burick, et al., internet download from www.nonoise.org/resource/racetrack/waynecounty.htm

Dirt Rider Magazine, internet download from www.dirtrider.com/features/141_0305_so

NRCS, 2001, Soil Survey of Iron-Washington Area, Utah, Parts of Iron, Kane, and Washington Counties.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Interdisciplinary Team Analysis Record

Appendix 2. Map of Proposed SRMA

Appendix 3. GTPSRMA Legal Description

Appendix 4. Recreation Management Plan

Appendix 5. DNA-UT-040-04-44

Appendix 6. Land Exchange Map

Appendix 7. Allotment Map

Appendix 8. Critical Elements of the Human Environment

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD

Project Title: Greater Three Peaks SRMA, Recreation Management Plan, Land Use Plan Amendment, Land Exchanges and R&PP Lease.

NEPA Log Number: UT-040-03-17

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Gina Ginouves

FOR EAs: NP: not present; NI: resource/use present but not impacted; PI: potentially impacted

FOR DNAs only: NC: no change (anticipated resource impacts not changed from those analyzed in the NEPA document on which the DNA is based)

STAFF REVIEW OF PROPOSAL: (See original document for signatures)

NP/NI/PI NC	Resource	Date Reviewed	Signature	Review Comments (required for all NIs and PIs. PIs require further analysis.)
CRITICAL ELEMENTS				
NI	Air Quality	1/12/04	REdwards	Standards for air quality would be met.
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	1/12/04	REdwards	None in Field Office Area
PI changed to NI	Cultural Resources	1/12/04 12/04	GDalley	Several actions will entail disturbance that will require inventory and clearance. See EA Appendix 8.
NI	Environmental Justice	1/12/04	GGinouves	No populations would be disproportionately affected.
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	1/12/04	REdwards	None in Field Office Area
NP	Floodplains	1/12/04	REdwards	Floodplain needs would be met.
PI	Invasive, Non-native Species	1/12/04	REdwards	Prevention of noxious weed invasion will be needed.
PI changed to NI	Native American Religious Concerns	1/12/04	AStanworth	Needs consultation with tribe. See EA Appendix 8.
PI changed to NI	Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive or Candidate Plant Species	1/12/04	REdwards	Need inventory for sensitive plant species including Pinyon Penstemon. See EA Appendix 8.
PI	Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive or Candidate Animal Species	1/12/04	SHedges/RBonebrake	Need section 7 consultation for UPDs. Needs raptor/ssss surveys.
PI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	3/28/05	GGinouves	See EA.
NI	Water Quality (drinking/ground)	1/12/04	REdwards	No impact is State water quality standards are met.
PI	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	1/12/04	RBonebrake/SHedges	Needs Inventory. See EA.
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	1/12/04	REdwards	None in Field Office Area.
NP	Wilderness	1/12/04	REdwards	None in area.

Appendix 3 – GTPSRMA Legal Description

NP/NI/PI NC	Resource	Date Reviewed	Signature	Review Comments (required for all NIs and PIs. PIs require further analysis.)
OTHER RESOURCES / CONCERNS*				
PI	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	1/12/04	RBarry	Impacts to veg. and soil standards.
PI	Livestock Grazing	1/12/04	RBarry	Possible impacts to grazing allotments.
PI	Woodland / Forestry	1/12/04	REdwards	Loss of woodland resources.
PI	Vegetation	1/12/04	RBarry	Impacts to vegetation
PI	Fish and Wildlife	1/12/04	RBonebrake/SHedges	Need surveys/coordination with UDWR on hunting.
PI	Soils	1/12/04	REdwards	Soils impacted.
PI	Recreation	1/12/04	GGinouves	See EA.
NI	Visual Resources	1/12/04	REdwards	Current VRM objectives for this area would be met.
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources	2/19/04	EGinouves	Any locatable, salable, or leasable mineral resources present would not be substantially affected by the proposed action.
NP	Paleontology	2/19/04	EGinouves	
PI	Lands / Access	1/12/04	ELarsen	R&PP/exchanges a part of the plan.
NI	Fuels / Fire Management	4/6/04	SSmall	
PI	Socio-economics	1/12/04	GGinouves	See EA
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	1/12/04	Chunter	None in area
NP	Wilderness characteristics	1/12/04	REdwards	

FINAL REVIEW

Reviewer Title	Date	Signature	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Manager			

GREATER THREE PEAKS SRMA LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Salt Lake Meridian, Utah, Township 35 South, Range 12 West

<u>Public Land</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Section 1, All except the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;	635
Section 2, Lot 3, N $\frac{1}{2}$;	24
Section 3, All except patented mining claims;	475
Section 4, except for Iron County R&PP;	536
Section 9, except for Iron County R&PP;	425
Section 10, All except patented mining claims;	578
Sections 11, All;	640
Section 12, All;	640
Section 14, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;	280
Section 15, All except the S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and patented mining claims;	645
Section 16, Lots 2, 3, and 8 except for patented mining claims.	88
PUBLIC ACRES (more or less)	4966

INHOLDINGS (Some of these lands may be included into the SRMA in the future)

Iron County Land

Section 3, patented mining claim 18449	15
IRON COUNTY ACRES (more or less)	15

SITLA Land

Section 2: S $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$	495
Section 16: All except patented mining claims	455
SITLA ACRES (more or less)	950

Private Land (patented acreage estimated)

Section 2: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 3, lot 4	150
Section 3, patented mining claims	193
Section 9, patented mining claims	73
Section 10, patented mining claims	76
Section 15, patented mining claims	10
Section 16, patented mining claims	84
PRIVATE ACRES (more or less)	586

TOTAL ACRES SURROUNDED BY THE GTPSRMA: 6517

Critical Elements of the Human Environment

There are fourteen critical elements of the human environment that are specifically required by statute, regulation, or executive order to be considered in the proposed action and alternatives of all EAs. Of the fourteen the following are not present in the lands included in the proposed action: **Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns, Farm Lands (prime or unique), Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness.**

The following critical elements are present but would not be affected for the reasons listed.

Air Quality: Increased recreation use in the proposed SRMA, especially from motorized equipment would temporarily increase dust in the air. The coarse nature of the local soils, however, would make this impact negligible.

Cultural Resources: All areas of proposed surface disturbance or lease have been surveyed for cultural properties. Boundaries of proposed activities were changed to avoid any historic properties found. No historic properties would be included in public land included in the exchanges.

Environmental Justice: There are no low-income or minority populations which would be expected to be disproportionately affected by the proposed action or alternative.

Floodplains: No structures of other facilities which could impact a floodplain are proposed.

Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species: Potential habitat of *Penstemon pinorum*, a Utah BLM state sensitive plant species, was inventoried in the Three Peaks area on 26 May 1999 and again on 12 April 2004. No *Penstemon pinorum* plants were found on either the 1999 or 2004 surveys at Three Peaks. No other sensitive plants were found on any of the tracts involved in this action.

Native American Religious Concerns: The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah has been consulted regarding this action. They requested information regarding any prehistoric cultural sites which might be found. This information will be conveyed to the Tribe.

Water Quality (drinking/ground): There is no surface water in the proposed Three Peaks SRMA. No groundwater would be affected. No action is proposed which would affect water in the proposed exchange properties. Drinking water for the recreation area would be brought in by truck or approved pipelines.

Critical elements which could be affected in **Invasive, Non-Native Species, Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Wildlife Species, Wastes (hazardous or solid), and Wetlands/Riparian Zones.** These resources are analyzed further in the body of the EA.